

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1. A database management method comprising:
  - collecting statistics relating to operation of a database, wherein the database
  - 5 comprises one or more database objects;
  - determining characteristics of the database objects;
  - determining actions to be performed on the database objects based on the
  - characteristics of the database objects;
  - automatically determining a schedule for performing the actions on the database
  - 10 objects;
  - performing the actions on the database objects based on the schedule;
  - confirming the performing the actions on the database objects; and
  - monitoring results of the performing the actions on the database objects.
- 15 2. The database management method of claim 1,
  - wherein the statistics comprise object-level statistics.
3. The database management method of claim 1,
  - wherein the statistics comprise activity-level statistics.
- 20 4. The database management method of claim 1,
  - wherein the determining the characteristics of the database objects comprises
  - determining the characteristics of the database objects using the collected statistics.
- 25 5. The database management method of claim 1,
  - wherein the determining the characteristics of the database objects comprises
  - determining the characteristics of the database objects using one or more policies.

6. The database management method of claim 5, further comprising:  
a user customizing the one or more policies.

7. The database management method of claim 1,  
5 wherein the determining the characteristics of the database objects comprises  
determining the characteristics of the database objects using one or more definitions.

8. The database management method of claim 7, further comprising:  
a user customizing the one or more definitions.

9. The database management method of claim 1, further comprising:  
performing the actions on the database objects based on the schedule;  
confirming the performing the actions on the database objects; and  
analyzing results of the performing the actions on the database objects.

10. The database management method of claim 9, further comprising:  
reconfiguring one or more policies based on the analyzing the results of the  
performing the scheduled actions on the database objects.

11. The database management method of claim 1,  
20 wherein the determining the characteristics of the database objects comprises  
automatically determining the characteristics of the database objects.

12. The database management method of claim 1,  
25 wherein the determining the actions to be performed on the database objects based  
on the characteristics of the database objects comprises automatically determining the  
actions to be performed on the database objects based on the characteristics of the  
database objects.

13. The database management method of claim 1,  
wherein the performing the actions on the database objects based on the schedule  
comprises automatically performing the actions on the database objects based on the  
5 schedule.

14. A carrier medium comprising program instructions, wherein the program  
instructions are computer-executable to implement:

collecting statistics relating to operation of a database, wherein the database  
10 comprises one or more database objects;

determining characteristics of the database objects;

determining actions to be performed on the database objects based on the  
characteristics of the database objects;

automatically determining a schedule for performing the actions on the database  
15 objects;

performing the actions on the database objects based on the schedule;

confirming the performing the actions on the database objects; and

monitoring results of the performing the actions on the database objects.

20 15. The carrier medium of claim 14,  
wherein the statistics comprise object-level statistics.

16. The carrier medium of claim 14,  
wherein the statistics comprise activity-level statistics.

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17. The carrier medium of claim 14,  
wherein the determining the characteristics of the database objects comprises  
determining the characteristics of the database objects using the collected statistics.

18. The carrier medium of claim 14,  
wherein the determining the characteristics of the database objects comprises  
determining the characteristics of the database objects using one or more policies.

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19. The carrier medium of claim 18, wherein the program instructions are further  
computer-executable to implement:

customizing the one or more policies.

10 20. The carrier medium of claim 14,  
wherein the determining the characteristics of the database objects comprises  
determining the characteristics of the database objects using one or more definitions.

15 21. The carrier medium of claim 20, wherein the program instructions are further  
computer-executable to implement:

customizing the one or more definitions.

22. The carrier medium of claim 14, wherein the program instructions are further  
computer-executable to implement:

20 performing the actions on the database objects based on the schedule;  
confirming the performing the actions on the database objects; and  
analyzing results of the performing the actions on the database objects.

25 23. The carrier medium of claim 22, wherein the program instructions are further  
computer-executable to implement:

reconfiguring one or more policies based on the analyzing the results of the  
performing the scheduled actions on the database objects.

24. The carrier medium of claim 14,  
wherein the determining the characteristics of the database objects comprises  
automatically determining the characteristics of the database objects.

5 25. The carrier medium of claim 14,  
wherein the determining the actions to be performed on the database objects based  
on the characteristics of the database objects comprises automatically determining the  
actions to be performed on the database objects based on the characteristics of the  
database objects.

10 26. The carrier medium of claim 14,  
wherein the performing the actions on the database objects based on the schedule  
comprises automatically performing the actions on the database objects based on the  
schedule.

15 27. A database management system comprising:  
a CPU;  
a database coupled to the CPU, wherein the database comprises one or more  
database objects;  
20 a memory coupled to the CPU, wherein the memory stores program instructions  
which are executable by the CPU to:

collect statistics relating to operation of the database;  
determine characteristics of the database objects;  
determine actions to be performed on the database objects based on the  
25 characteristics of the database objects;  
automatically determine a schedule for performing the actions on the  
database objects;  
perform the actions on the database objects based on the schedule;

confirm the performing the actions on the database objects; and  
monitor results of the performing the actions on the database objects.

28. The database management system of claim 27,  
5 wherein the statistics comprise object-level statistics.

29. The database management system of claim 27,  
wherein the statistics comprise activity-level statistics.

10 30. The database management system of claim 27,  
wherein in determining the characteristics of the database objects, the program  
instructions are further executable by the CPU to determine the characteristics of the  
database objects using the collected statistics.

15 31. The database management system of claim 27,  
wherein in determining the characteristics of the database objects, the program  
instructions are further executable by the CPU to determine the characteristics of the  
database objects using one or more policies.

20 32. The database management system of claim 31, wherein the program instructions  
are further executable by the CPU to:  
customize the one or more policies.

25 33. The database management system of claim 27,  
wherein in determining the characteristics of the database objects, the program  
instructions are further executable by the CPU to determine the characteristics of the  
database objects using one or more definitions.

34. The database management system of claim 33, wherein the program instructions are further executable by the CPU to:  
customize the one or more definitions.

5 35. The database management system of claim 27, wherein the program instructions are further executable by the CPU to:  
perform the actions on the database objects based on the schedule;  
confirm the performing the actions on the database objects; and  
analyze results of the performing the actions on the database objects.

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36. The database management system of claim 35, wherein the program instructions are further executable by the CPU to:  
reconfigure one or more policies based on the analyzing the results of the performing the scheduled actions on the database objects.

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37. The database management system of claim 27,  
wherein in determining the characteristics of the database objects, the program instructions are further executable by the CPU to automatically determine the characteristics of the database objects.

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38. The database management system of claim 27,  
wherein in determining the actions to be performed on the database objects based on the characteristics of the database objects, the program instructions are further executable by the CPU to automatically determine the actions to be performed on the database objects based on the characteristics of the database objects.

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39. The database management system of claim 27,

wherein in performing the actions on the database objects based on the schedule, the program instructions are further executable by the CPU to automatically perform the actions on the database objects based on the schedule.

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